



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Substitute Bill No. 1342

* _____SB01342APP__050107_____*

**AN ACT CONCERNING LINGUISTIC ACCESS IN HOSPITALS AND
DIVERSITY IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-490i of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 (a) Each acute care hospital in this state shall:

4 (1) Develop and annually review a policy on the provision of
5 interpreter services to non-English-speaking patients;

6 (2) Ensure, to the extent possible, the availability of interpreter
7 services to patients whose primary language is spoken by a group
8 comprising not less than five per cent of the population residing in the
9 geographic area served by the hospital;

10 (3) Prepare and maintain a list of qualified interpreters;

11 (4) Notify hospital staff of the requirement to provide interpreters to
12 non-English-speaking patients;

13 (5) Post multilingual notices of the availability of interpreters to
14 non-English-speaking patients;

15 (6) Review standardized forms to determine the need for translation

16 for use by non-English-speaking patients;

17 (7) Consider providing hospital staff with picture and phrase sheets
18 for communication with non-English-speaking patients; and

19 (8) Establish liaisons to non-English-speaking communities in the
20 geographic area served by the hospital.

21 (b) The Department of Public Health shall (1) monitor and enforce
22 hospital compliance with the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of
23 this section, (2) examine the effectiveness of such requirements, and (3)
24 on or before January 1, 2009, and biennially thereafter, report to the
25 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
26 of matters relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions
27 of section 11-4a, on any findings and recommendations regarding how
28 to improve linguistic access standards in acute care hospitals.

29 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) The Department of Public
30 Health shall (1) collect and track data on the race and ethnicity of all
31 health care professionals licensed in this state, and (2) on or before
32 December 31, 2008, and annually thereafter, report, in accordance with
33 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the diversity
34 of the state's health care workforce to the joint standing committee of
35 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
36 health.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	19a-490i
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section

PH Joint Favorable Subst.

APP Joint Favorable